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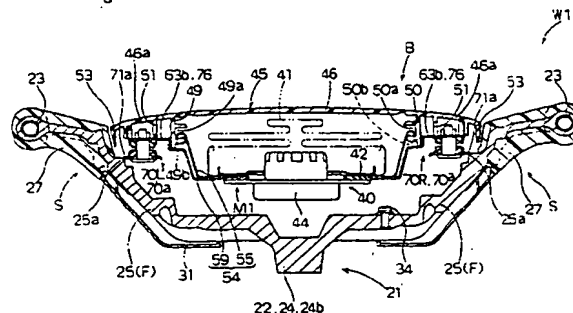
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(54) Steering wheel having air bag module

(57) A steering wheel in which a ceiling portion (46) of a pad (45) of an air bag module (M1) has adjacent peripheral edges (46a) extending along the individual spoke portions (S) of a steering wheel body to be positioned close to a cover layer (27) of the individual spoke portions. Each of the adjacent peripheral portions has a push rib (51). A bag holder (54) has extensions (63b) capable of abutting against the individual push ribs (51). Movable contacts of the individual switch bodies (70) are individually supported by the extensions under the push ribs. Stationary contacts of the individual switch bodies (70) are individually supported by a stationary plate (71) which is supported in abutment by the individual spoke portion cores in the vicinity of the individual stationary contacts. The steering wheel enables the operation of a horn switch with a reduced operational load when the peripheral edge of the pad of the air bag module is depressed and retains a clear feel of arrival at the bottom. This improves the operational feel of the horn switch.

the steering wheel body. The air bag module comprises retaining holes in the vicinity of the screwing portion of each of said mounting bolt for retaining said pawls.

Fig. 7



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under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent
Convention

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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Y	DE 92 05 252 U (KEUNE & LAUBER GMBH) 17 June 1992 * page 7, line 8 - page 8, line 8; figure 1 *	1	
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A	EP 0 488 618 A (MAZDA MOTOR CORP.) 3 June 1992 * figure 2 *	2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B60R

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

EPO FORM 1503 03.12 (94/C27)

Place of search

THE HAGUE

Date of completion of the search

18 May 1999

Examiner

Dubois, B

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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L : document cited for other reasons

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number:

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 98 11 1560

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1,2

Steering wheel having an air bag module with improved horn switch operating feel

2. Claims: 3,4

Steering wheel having an air bag module, a horn switch and a fonction switch

3. Claims: 5, 6

Steering wheel having an air bag module with improved temporary mounting means

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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